



THE GREATEST
RESPONSIBILITY

PART
1
OF 3

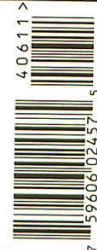
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MARVEL
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Free
Inside:
OVERPOWER™
GAME CARD

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



DIRECT EDITION



INTRODUCING
THE
NEW
DOCTOR OCTOPUS

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EVERYTHING'S OUT OF HDAHW, COMPLETELY OFF KILTER. EVIL BLACKHEAD ARMIES ERUPT WITHOUT WARNING, TAKE ME AS HOSTAGE, THEN LAUGH EVEN HARDER AND MULTIPLE. WELL, DIE, YOU ZOMBIE BLAST! YOU WHICH CLEANS WAY DOWN DEEP WITH A SECRET WEAPON WHICH IS MIGHTIER THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO LITTLE PAD FROM CLEARASIL. INVADERS, DIE, BECAUSE I HAVE A SECRET WEAPON WHICH IS MIGHTIER THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO LITTLE PAD FROM CLEARASIL. GALAXY AND WHICH IN FACT IS THIS WICKED



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STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MEN IN

THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY
PART ONE: **CROSSROADS**

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. 1, No. 404, October, 1995, (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Grand Central, President Stan Lee, Publisher OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 365 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.10 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: \$22.50 U.S. Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST GST #R127025282. Foreign: \$34.00. No warranty between any of the names, characters, persons, places, institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor is it a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive trademarks thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1070, DANBURY, CT 06813-1070. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-6301. PRINTED IN CANADA

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AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO GOT ALL EXCITED WHEN I OFFERED YOU A CHANCE TO MAKE A HOLOGRAPHICALLY PROTECTED JUMP INTO CYBERSPACE?

WHOEVER DRAINED ALL THE FILES FROM MY COMPUTER BANKS* DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE FAIL-SAFE PROGRAMS I HAD ENCRYPTED THERE. ALL THEY WERE ABLE TO GRAB WERE CODED FRAGMENTS--

--WHICH WILL ALLOW ME TO TRACE ANY MISSING INFORMATION TO THE SYSTEM IT WAS DOWN-LOADED INTO.

YOU MEAN-- LIKE THAT SYSTEM RIGHT THERE?

BEN-- YOU FOUND IT!

YEAH, BUT WHAT DID I FIND?

INTERESTING. THAT CYBER-DOOR LEADS INTO THE COMPUTER BANKS HOLDING THE STOLEN FILES--

--BUT THOSE TENTACLE-LIKE PROJECTIONS APPEAR TO BE LINKING IT UP TO A VASTLY LARGER SYSTEM WHICH IS COVERTLY MONITORING THE SMALLER ONE.

YOU MEAN WHOEVER HIT US-- HAS SOMEONE ON THEIR TAIL?

APPARENTLY SO.

CRASH!!

I THINK YOU SHOULD LAUNCH THE PROBE NOW, BEN.

BUT BE ALERT. A SYSTEM THIS SOPHISTICATED IS BOUND TO HAVE ELABORATE PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN PLACE.

* LAST ISSUE-- BOB.

NOPE. THAT WASN'T ME. MUST'VE BEEN SOME OTHER BEN REILLY.

DON'T WORRY. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF! THOSE ARE COMPUTER-GENERATED ANTI-VIRAL PROGRAMS!

STOP BEING SUCH A KNOW-IT ALL!

BREAK OFF CONTACT BEN! GET OUT OF THERE!

TOING!

ZZZEEET!

NOT YET! A FEW MORE SECONDS AND WE MIGHT DOWN-LOAD ENOUGH DATA TO GET A FIX ON THEIR LOCATION!

LISTEN TO ME-- HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS OR NOT... THE DANGER FROM THOSE THINGS IS REAL!

YOU'RE ALIVE IN CYBERSPACE--AND YOU COULD VERY POSSIBLY DIE THERE!

GIVE ME A BREAK! DEFYING DEATH IS MY BUSINESS! I'M THE SCARLET SPIDER, REMEMBER?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I THOUGHT YOU HATED THAT NAME.

TOOM!

PAKK!

SSSSHHAAAKKKK!



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CHROMIUM POWER SURGE!

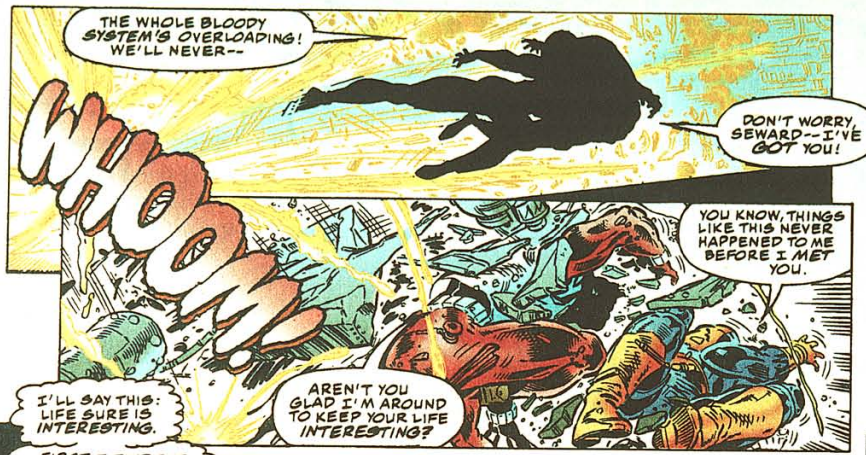
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ALL X-MEN
ALL KUBERT
ALL CHROMIUM

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THE WHOLE BLOODY SYSTEM'S OVERLOADING! WE'LL NEVER--

DON'T WORRY, SEWARD--I'VE GOT YOU!

YOU KNOW, THINGS LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE I MET YOU.

I'LL SAY THIS: LIFE SURE IS INTERESTING.

AREN'T YOU GLAD I'M AROUND TO KEEP YOUR LIFE INTERESTING?

FIRST I FIND OUT I'M NOT THE REAL PETER PARKER--BUT HIS CLONE. AND I TOTALLY LOSE IT. BUT, HEY, I FIGHT MY WAY BACK. FIND A SENSE OF SELF-WORTH. EVERYTHING LOOKS LIKE IT'S COMING TOGETHER.

UNTIL THAT PSYCHIC "TIME-BOMB" KICKS IN. TURNS OUT THE JACKAL PROGRAMMED ME TO GO NUTS. KILL MY WIFE. I END UP CHASING MARY JANE ACROSS HALF THE CITY.

BUT I FIGHT BACK AGAIN. OVERCOME THE PROGRAMMING. SAVE HER. SAVE MYSELF.

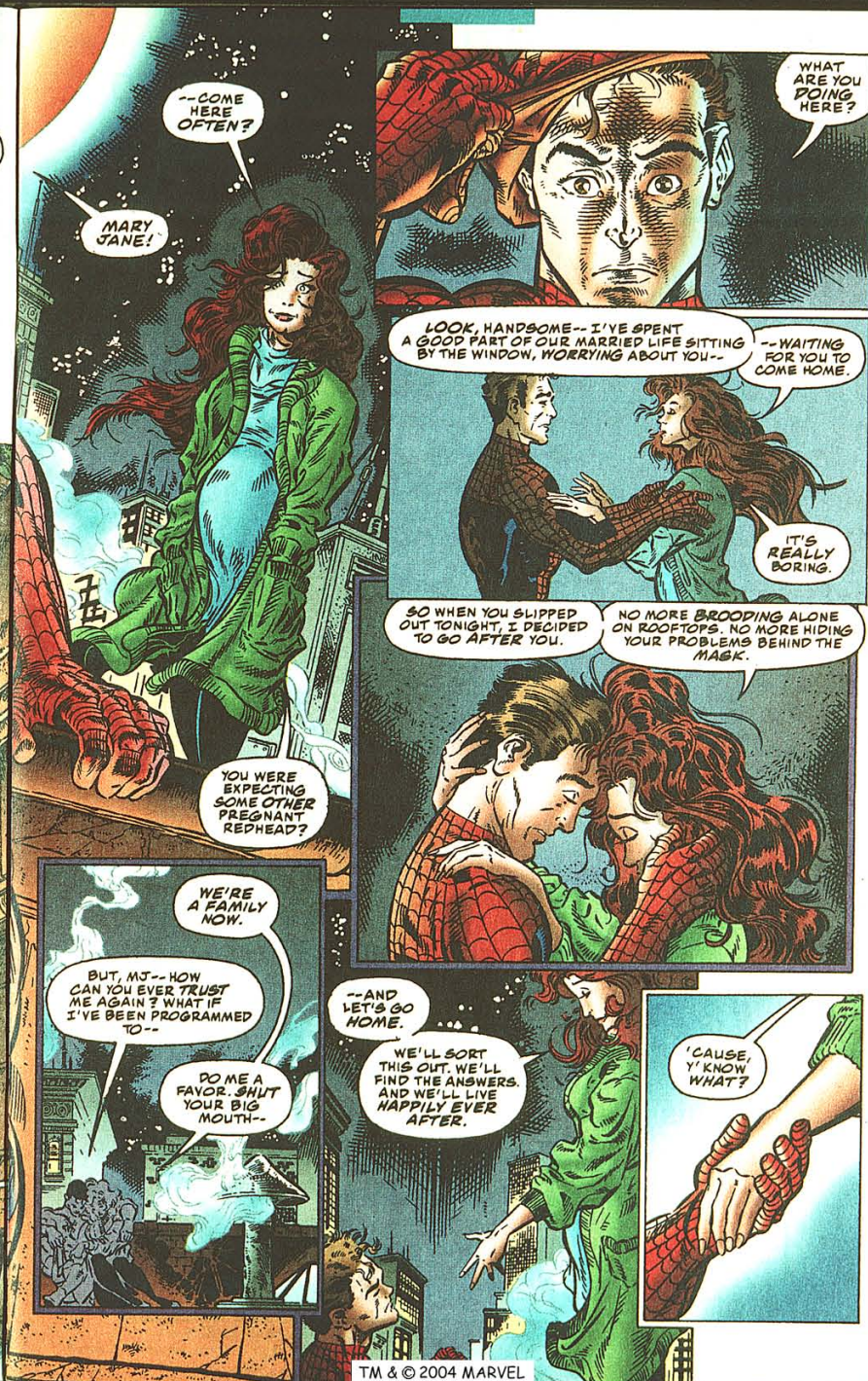
EVERYONE BREATHE'S A SIGN OF RELIEF. THE WORST IS OVER.

MAYBE.

PROBLEM IS--I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER PROGRAMS SLIPPED INTO MY UNCONSCIOUS. WHO'S TO SAY I WON'T GO PSYCHO AGAIN IN A YEAR? OR SIX MONTHS? OR TOMORROW?

I CAN'T EXPECT MARY JANE TO LIVE LIKE THAT! SHE DESERVES BETTER THAN--

HEY, SAILOR--



--COME HERE OFTEN?

MARY JANE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LOOK, HANDSOME--I'VE SPENT A GOOD PART OF OUR MARRIED LIFE SITTING BY THE WINDOW, WORRYING ABOUT YOU--

--WAITING FOR YOU TO COME HOME.

IT'S REALLY BORING.

SO WHEN YOU SLIPPED OUT TONIGHT, I DECIDED TO GO AFTER YOU.

NO MORE BROODING ALONE ON ROOFTOPS. NO MORE HIDING YOUR PROBLEMS BEHIND THE MASK.

YOU WERE EXPECTING SOME OTHER PREGNANT REPHEAD?

WE'RE A FAMILY NOW.

BUT, MJ--HOW CAN YOU EVER TRUST ME AGAIN? WHAT IF I'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO--

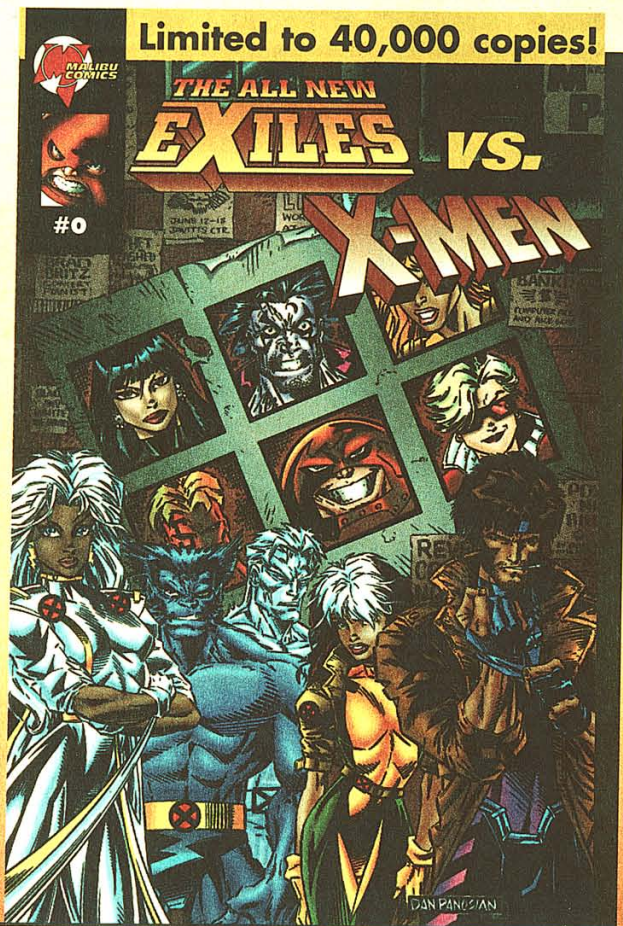
DO ME A FAVOR. SHUT YOUR BIG MOUTH--

--AND LET'S GO HOME.

WE'LL SORT THIS OUT. WE'LL FIND THE ANSWERS. AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

'CAUSE, Y'KNOW WHAT?

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This **all new**, limited edition comic features the first meeting between the Ultraverse's Exiles & Marvel's X-Men!

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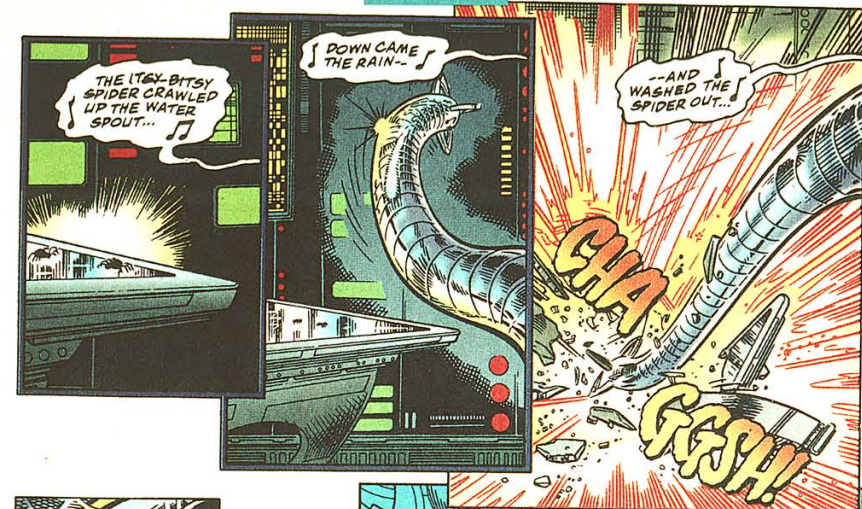
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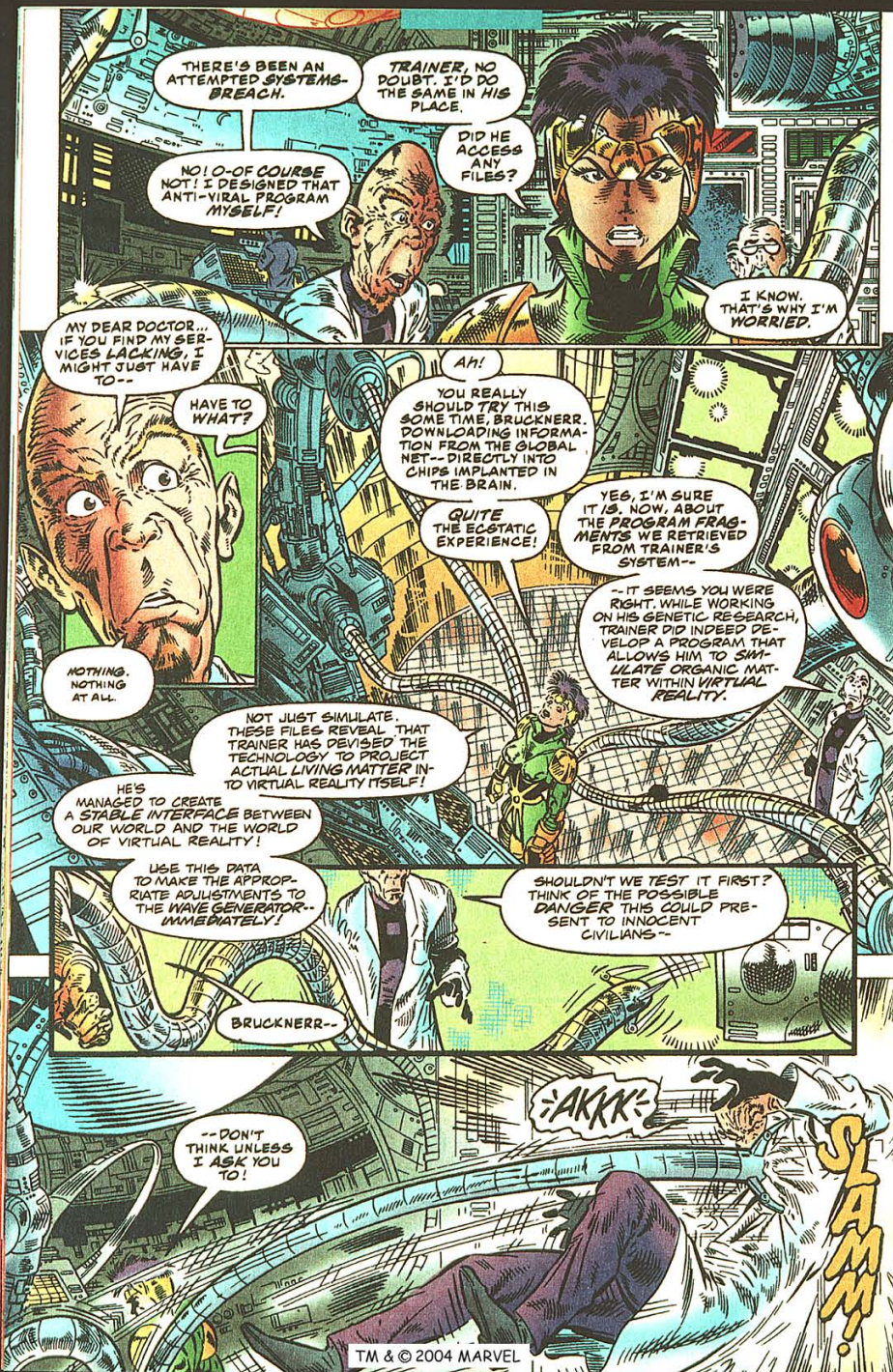
THERE'S A
FIRST TIME FOR
EVERYTHING, I
SUPPOSE.

I'VE HAD THAT
TUNE IN MY HEAD
ALL DAY. SOMETHING
MY FATHER-- THE
LOUT-- USED TO SING
TO ME WHEN I WAS
A LITTLE GIRL.

AH, WELL--
SO MUCH FOR
NOSTALGIA.

NOW
WHAT'S THE
EMERGENCY,
BRUCKNERR?
WHEN YOU CALLED
ME, YOU SOUNDED
LIKE YOU WERE
HAVING A
STROKE.

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THERE'S BEEN AN ATTEMPTED SYSTEMS-BREACH.

TRAINER, NO DOUBT. I'D DO THE SAME IN HIS PLACE.

DID HE ACCESS ANY FILES?

NO! O-OF COURSE NOT! I DESIGNED THAT ANTI-VIRAL PROGRAM MYSELF!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED.

MY DEAR DOCTOR... IF YOU FIND MY SERVICES LACKING, I MIGHT JUST HAVE TO--

HAVE TO WHAT?

AH! YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY THIS SOME TIME, BRUCKNERR. DOWNLOADING INFORMATION FROM THE GLOBAL NET-- DIRECTLY INTO CHIPS IMPLANTED IN THE BRAIN.

QUITE THE ECSTATIC EXPERIENCE!

YES, I'M SURE IT IS. NOW, ABOUT THE PROGRAM FRAGMENTS WE RETRIEVED FROM TRAINER'S SYSTEM--

--IT SEEMS YOU WERE RIGHT. WHILE WORKING ON HIS GENETIC RESEARCH, TRAINER DID INDEED DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS HIM TO SHAP--

NOTHING NOTHING AT ALL.

NOT JUST SIMULATE. THESE FILES REVEAL THAT TRAINER HAS DEvised THE TECHNOLOGY TO PROJECT ACTUAL LIVING MATTER INTO VIRTUAL REALITY ITSELF!

HE'S MANAGED TO CREATE A STABLE INTERFACE BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND THE WORLD OF VIRTUAL REALITY!

USE THIS DATA TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE WAVE GENERATOR-- IMMEDIATELY!

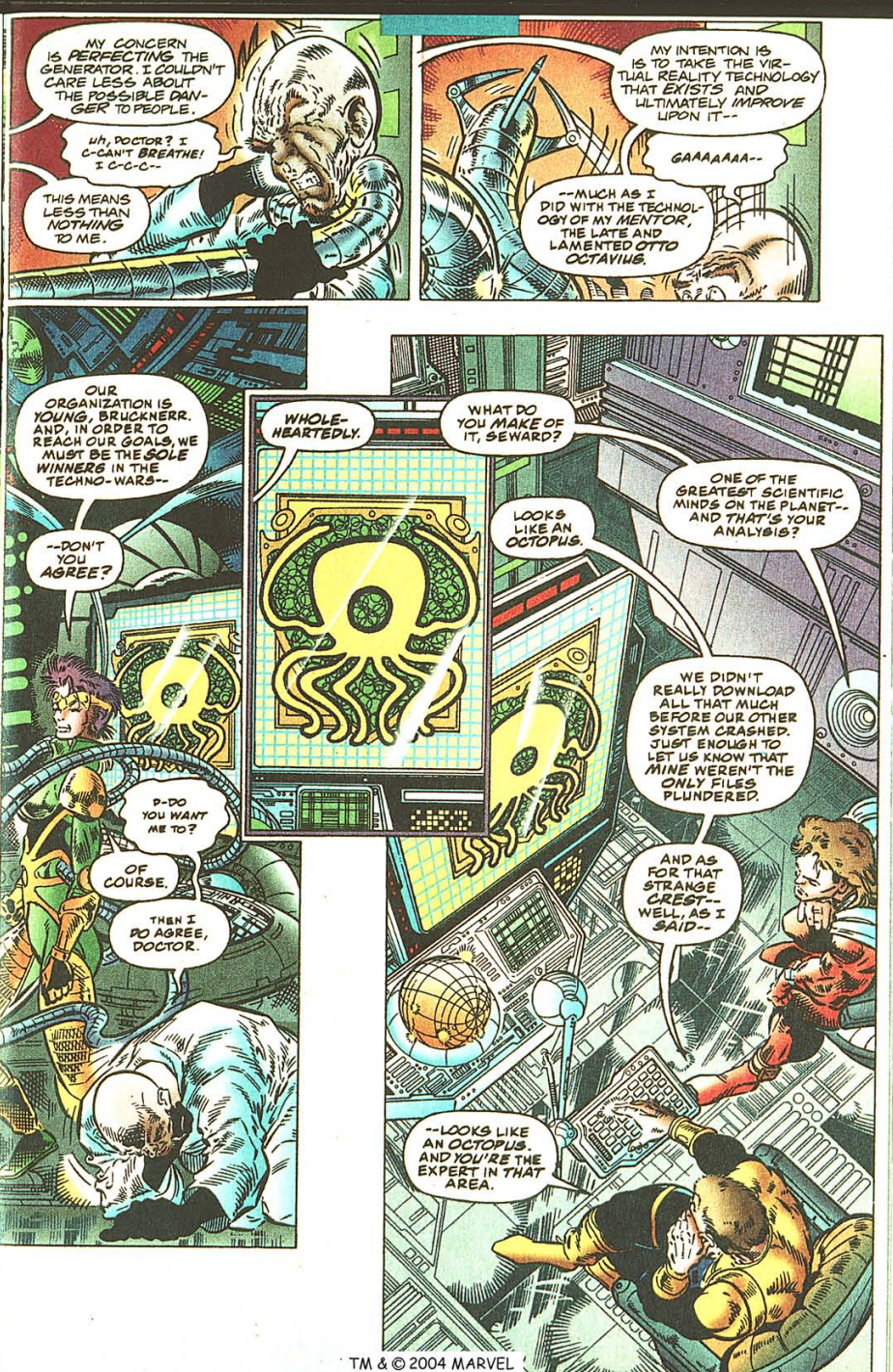
BRUCKNERR--

SHOULDN'T WE TEST IT FIRST? THINK OF THE POSSIBLE DANGER THIS COULD PRESENT TO INNOCENT CIVILIANS--

--DON'T THINK UNLESS I ASK YOU TO!

AKKKK

SLAM!



MY CONCERN IS PERFECTING THE GENERATOR. I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DANGER TO PEOPLE.

UH, DOCTOR? I C-CAN'T BREATHE! I C-C-C--

THIS MEANS LESS THAN NOTHING TO ME.

MY INTENTION IS TO TAKE THE VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY THAT EXISTS AND ULTIMATELY IMPROVE UPON IT--

GAAAAAAA--

--MUCH AS I DID WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF MY MENTOR, THE LATE AND LAMENTED OTTO OCTAVIUS.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS YOUNG, BRUCKNERR. AND, IN ORDER TO REACH OUR GOALS WE MUST BE THE SOLE WINNERS IN THE TECHNO-WARS--

--DON'T YOU AGREE?

WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, SEWARD?

LOOKS LIKE AN OCTOPUS.

ONE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS ON THE PLANET-- AND THAT'S YOUR ANALYSIS?

WE DIDN'T REALLY DOWNLOAD ALL THAT MUCH BEFORE OUR OTHER SYSTEM CRASHED. JUST ENOUGH TO LET US KNOW THAT MINE WEREN'T THE ONLY FILES PLUNDERED.

AND AS FOR THAT STRANGE CREST-- WELL, AS I SAID--

--LOOKS LIKE AN OCTOPUS. AND YOU'RE THE EXPERT IN THAT AREA.

DOCTOR OCTOPUS. COULD THERE BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AND OCTAVIUS? SOME SCHEME HE SET IN MOTION BEFORE HE DIED?

WELL, WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS--IF THEY'VE GOT EVEN A FRACTION OF SEWARD'S FILES CONCERNING SPIDER-MAN AND THE SCARLET SPIDER--

BUT PETER'S GOT A CAREER, A WIFE, A BABY ON THE WAY. HE'S WORKED TOO HARD, COME TOO FAR, TO SEE IT ALL CAPSIZED AGAIN. I WON'T LET IT BE CAPSIZED AGAIN!

I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. TO PROTECT PETER AND M.J. SEE THAT THEY GET A SHOT AT THE HAPPINESS THEY--

HELLO...?

WELL, SH... HEY, YOU GUYS. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU.

GOOD THINGS, I HOPE.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST.

SO... HOW ARE YOU, PETER?

I GUESS-- THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO FIND OUT.

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ANOTHER "TIME-BOMB," AREN'T YOU?

WOULDN'T YOU BE?

YEAH. I SURE WOULD.

AND--HEY... LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO SHOW.

I LOOK LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES, RIGHT?

...I KNOW IT'S SHORT NOTICE, DOCTOR TRAINER...

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL.

...BUT MARY JANE AND I TALKED IT OVER...

...AND WE DECIDED THAT... IF ANYONE CAN HELP US--IT'S YOU.

--YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

NOW, COME ON--LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO--

--IT COULD MEAN BIG TROUBLE.

NOT FOR ME. I'VE GOT NO LIFE TO SPEAK OF.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING LIKE AN EGO-TIST--

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WHO'S NEW. WHO'S WHERE.

BASIC CARD DESIGN

BASIC CARD BACK

WHO'S HOT.

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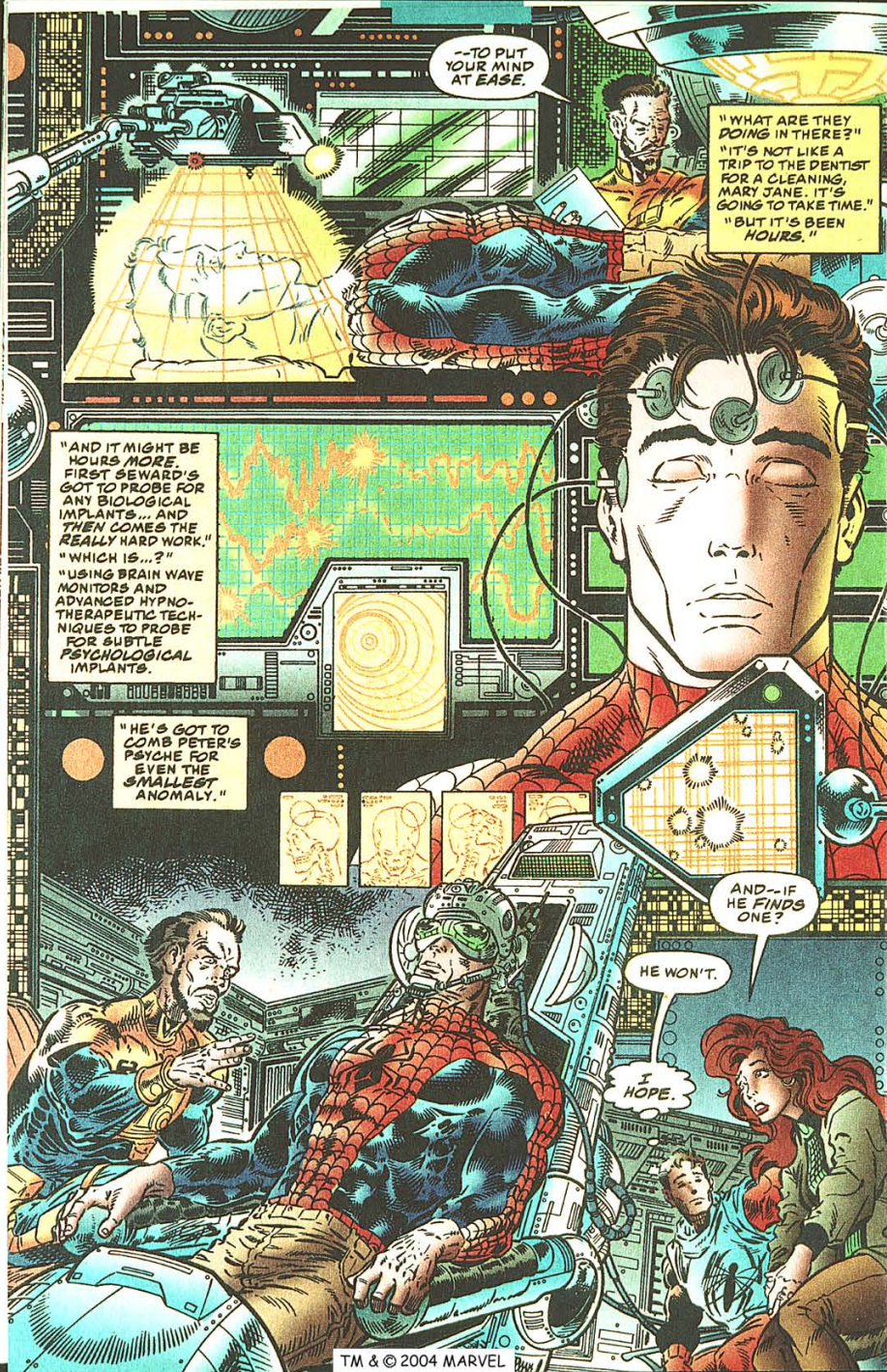
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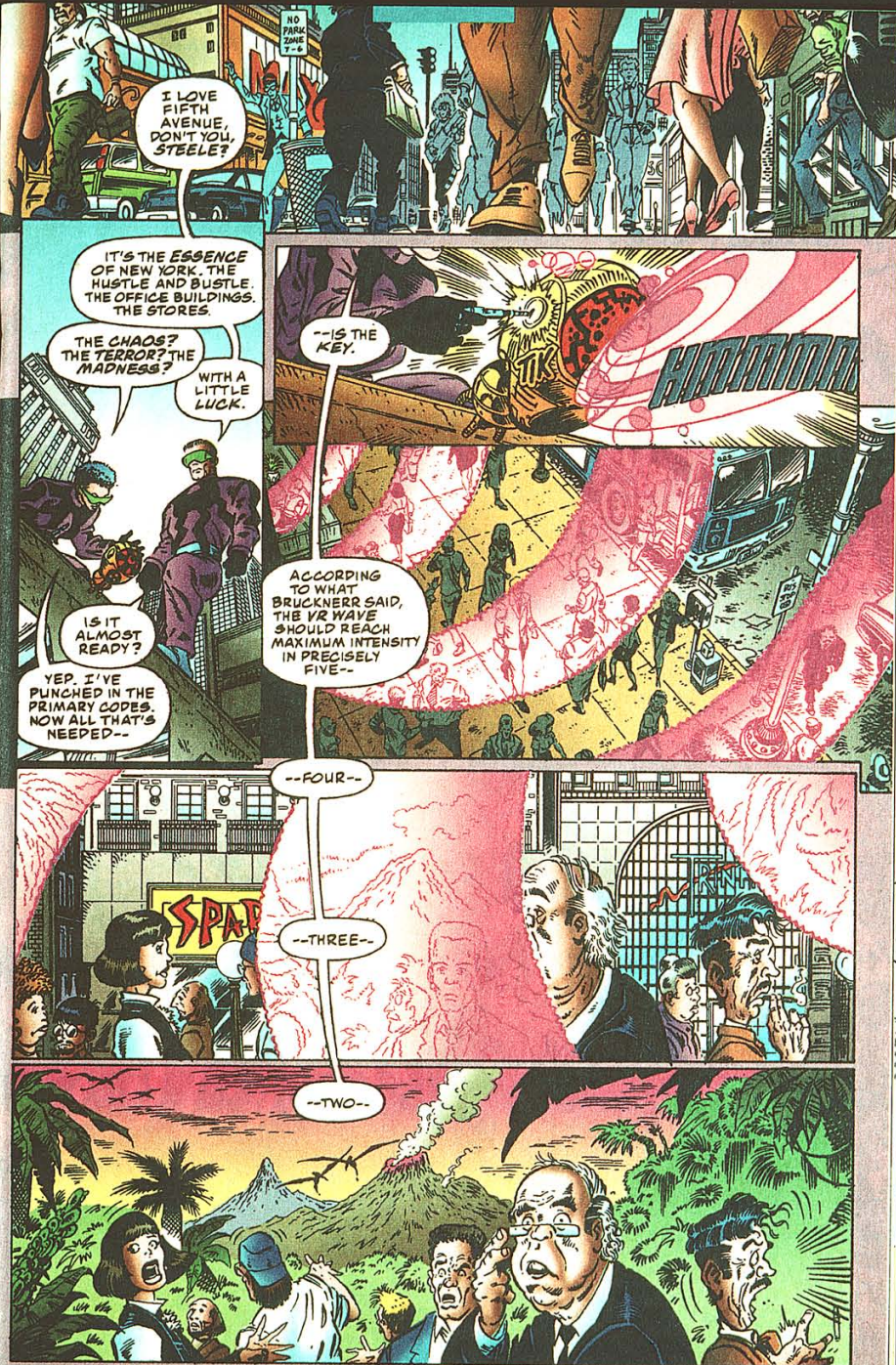
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ADVERTISEMENT THE ALL NEW EXILES

IN THE TRADITION OF GENERATION X #1!

Written by Terry (X-Verse) Kavanaugh with art by Ken (Excalibur) Lashly, Exiles #1 features a hot new team of mutant outcasts led by The Juggernaut!

Similar to Generation X #1, this new X-Title will be sizzling hot - especially at its \$1.50 cover price!

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Exiles #1 (All new monthly X-Title! - Reg. \$1.50).....\$1.25
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 Set includes 4 copies of Exiles #1 plus 1 copy of the rare painted cover edition and 1 copy of the super-rare Exiles Limited #1 featuring a different cover!

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The entire mini-series! J. Scott Campbell art!	Begins a new 3-part story! This title is red hot!

HOT COMICS!

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Major issue! Guest-stars Gen 13!	All new story! This series is hot!
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A major issue! It's the death of Cyber! Adam Kubert art! Hot!	

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All new X-Title in the tradition of Generation X! Hot!
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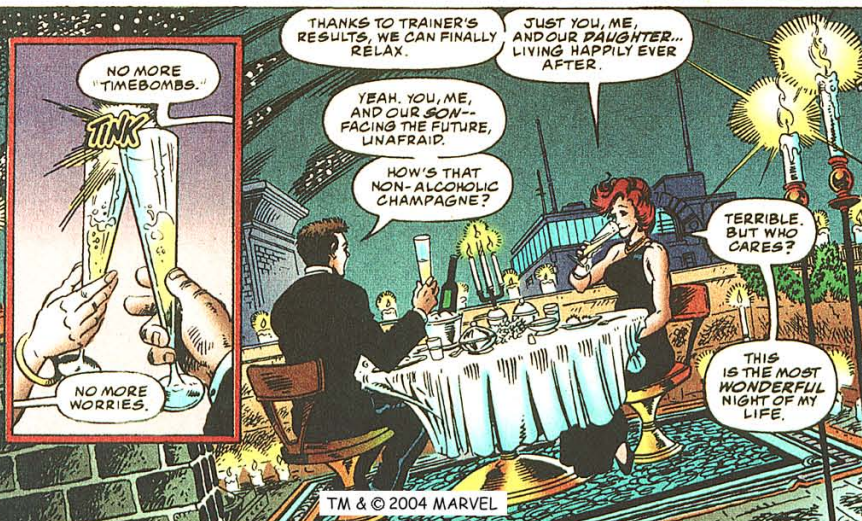
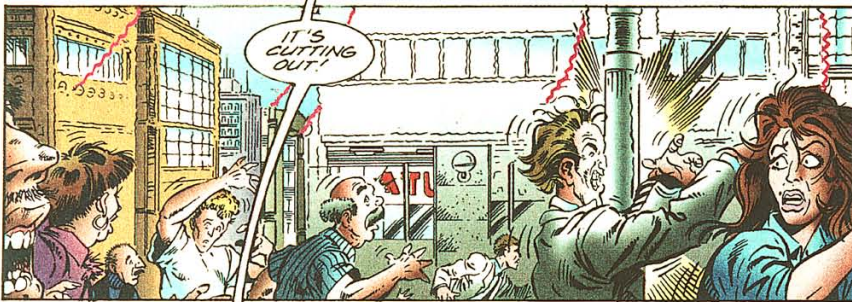


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ON SALE THIS MONTH

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #129

TIME BOMB - Part 2 of 2: Spider-Man is out to kill Mary Jane! Can the Scarlet Spider and the New Warriors stop the web-slinger from fulfilling Kaine's prophecy? By DeFalco/Butler/Emberlin

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #406

THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY - Part 1 of 3: The story that ends an era begins here! Peter Parker and Mary Jane don't have time to ponder their destiny as the new Doctor Octopus strikes! By DeMatteis/Medina/Mahesett

SPIDER-MAN #63

THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY - Part 2 of 3: The finale of the clone saga continues! Spider-Man and the Scarlet Spider (together again for the last time?) vs. the new Doctor Octopus - and wait! You see her! By Mackie/Kane/Palmer

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #229

THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY - Part 3 of 3: In this milestone 48-page issue, Peter Parker gives up his life as Spider-Man! Not a hoax! Not an imaginary story! By DeFalco/Buscema/Sienkiewicz

GREEN GOBLIN #1

First issue of a wild new ongoing series! Learn the origin of Marvel's newest, craziest crimefighter: Who is he? How did he come to be? The answers will shock you! By DeFalco/McDaniel

NEW WARRIORS #64

The Scarlet Spider and the Warriors are caught between Night Thrasher (with his new team, Psi-Force) and Genocide's Ego! By Skolnick/Zircher/Pepoy

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN #2

In one of his earliest adventures, Spider-Man goes after the monstrous menace called Batwing... and makes a shocking discovery! Only ninety-nine cents! By Busiek/Olliffe/Vey & Eklund

SPIDER-MAN ADVENTURES #10

Spider-Man vs. Venom, adapted from the smash hit animated television show! By Yomtov/Savich/Stall

SPIDER-MAN:

THE LOST YEARS #3 of 3

The finale of this acclaimed limited series! Ben Reilly vs. Kaine - and learn the secret behind the murder that Peter Parker was jailed for! By DeMatteis/Romita, Jr./Lanson

VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL #3 of 5

Would ya believe... the bride of Venom? And the Sin-Eater forges ahead with his plan for mass mayhem and merciless punishment! By Hama/Luzzitnik/Palmiotti & Branch

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

SUPER SPECIAL #1

In the startling, no-holds-barred conclusion to "Planet of the Symbiotes," Spider-Man, the Scarlet Spider and Venom must end the threat of the invading symbiotes... while facing off against a so-far Carnage! And in the special flip feature, the Scarlet Spider concludes his running battle with the newly evolved Lizard! By Michelinie/Kavanagh/Kesler/Lightle/Robinson/Zircher/Crawford/Albrecht

SPIDER-MAN VS.

GREEN GOBLIN

A 176-page trade paperback collecting the essential battles between Spider-Man and his greatest enemy by Lee/Ditko/Romita, Sr./McFarlane and more!



PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN NO MORE!



"The end of an era." You've undoubtedly heard that phrase countless times before, but never was it more fitting than here and now. In SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #229, on sale this month, Peter Parker - husband, clone and father-to-be - hangs up his costume and gives up being Spider-Man!



SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #229

It's true: the man we've followed through years of thrilling adventures and memorable milestones (ever since AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #150, in fact), is retiring and leaving the super heroics to the guy who started it all: Ben Reilly, the one, true, original Peter Parker!

As Peter and Mary Jane begin their new life, Ben will continue on, as the Scarlet Spider! Ben's adventures as New York's new reigning web-slinger will then be chronicled in the four core Spider-titles (which he will be taking over as of September), along with NEW WARRIORS!

Written by Tom DeFalco and beautifully illustrated by Sal Buscema and Bill Sienkiewicz, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #229 is a can't miss, 48-page classic that will go down in history as one of the most important Spider-Man stories of all time!

Yes, it is the end of an era... but it's also the beginning of a thrilling new one!

GREEN GOBLIN GETS HIS OWN SERIES



GREEN GOBLIN #1

This month marks the release of GREEN GOBLIN #1, kicking off an ongoing series that stars a character best known as Spider-Man's greatest enemy! But this is an all-new Goblin, and he's fighting on the side of the angels! Why? And just who is this new costumed crimefighter intent on striking fear into the hearts of evildoers everywhere? You're about to find out.

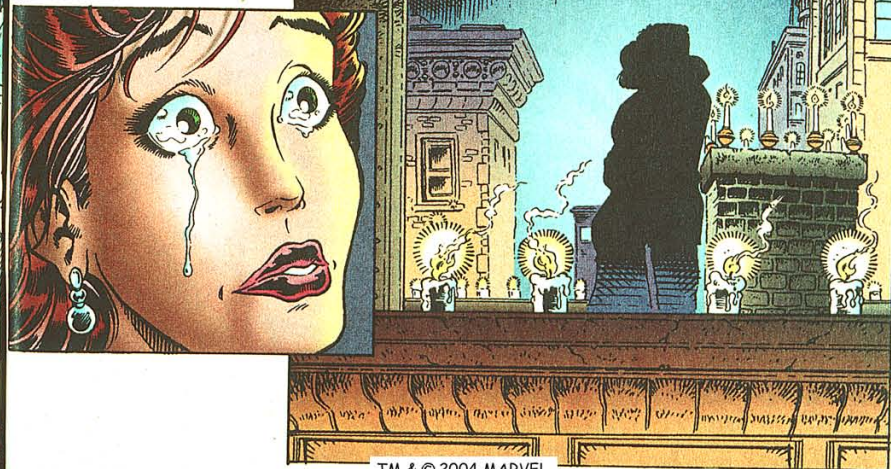
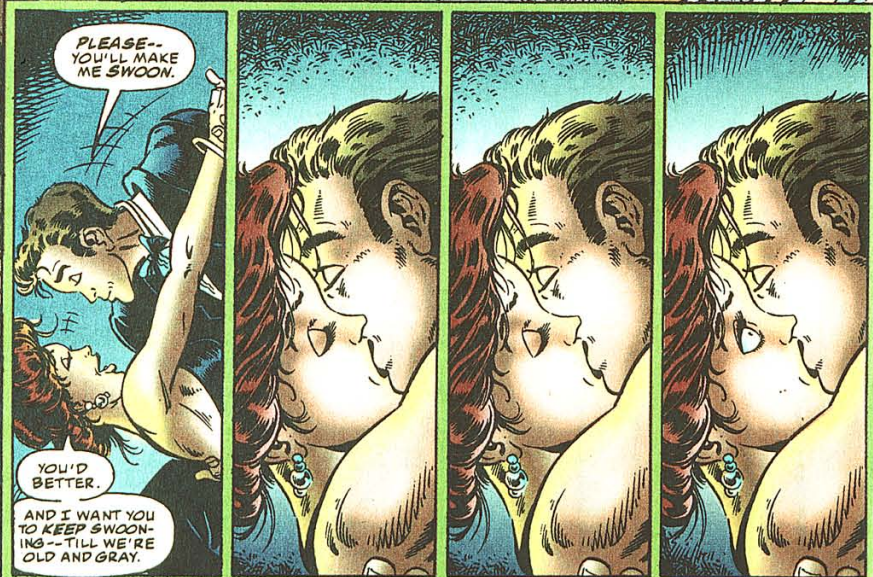
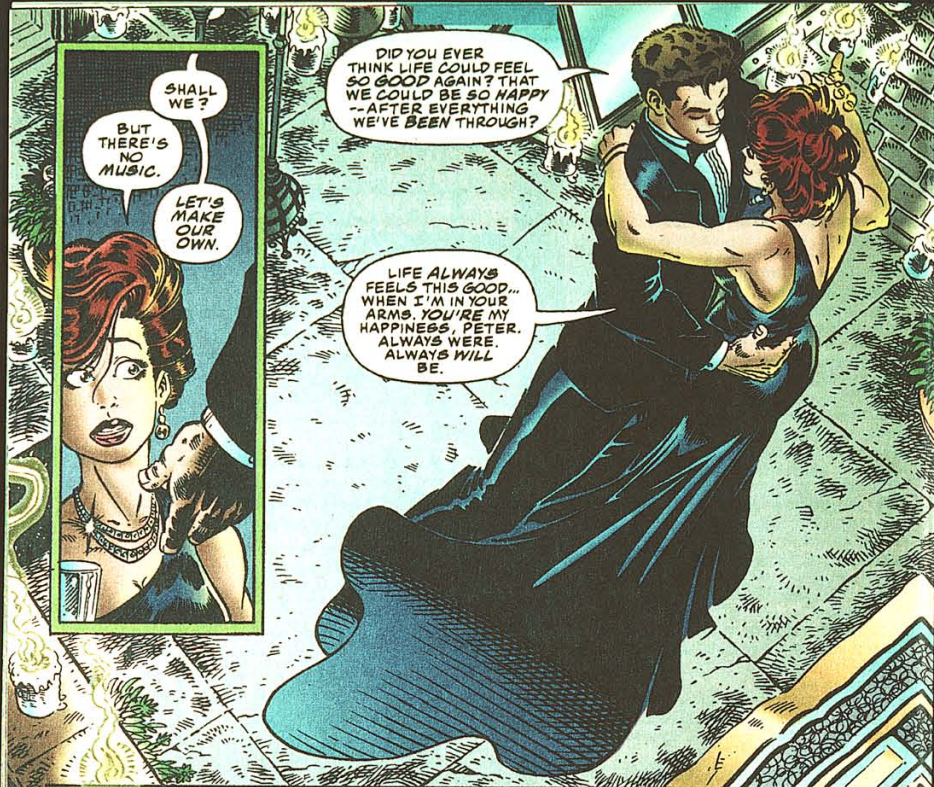
Writer Tom DeFalco discussed working on this new series: "I find it a real challenge to write a character who's been linked with villainy for so many years... but as a former Editor in Chief of Marvel, I know how he feels!"

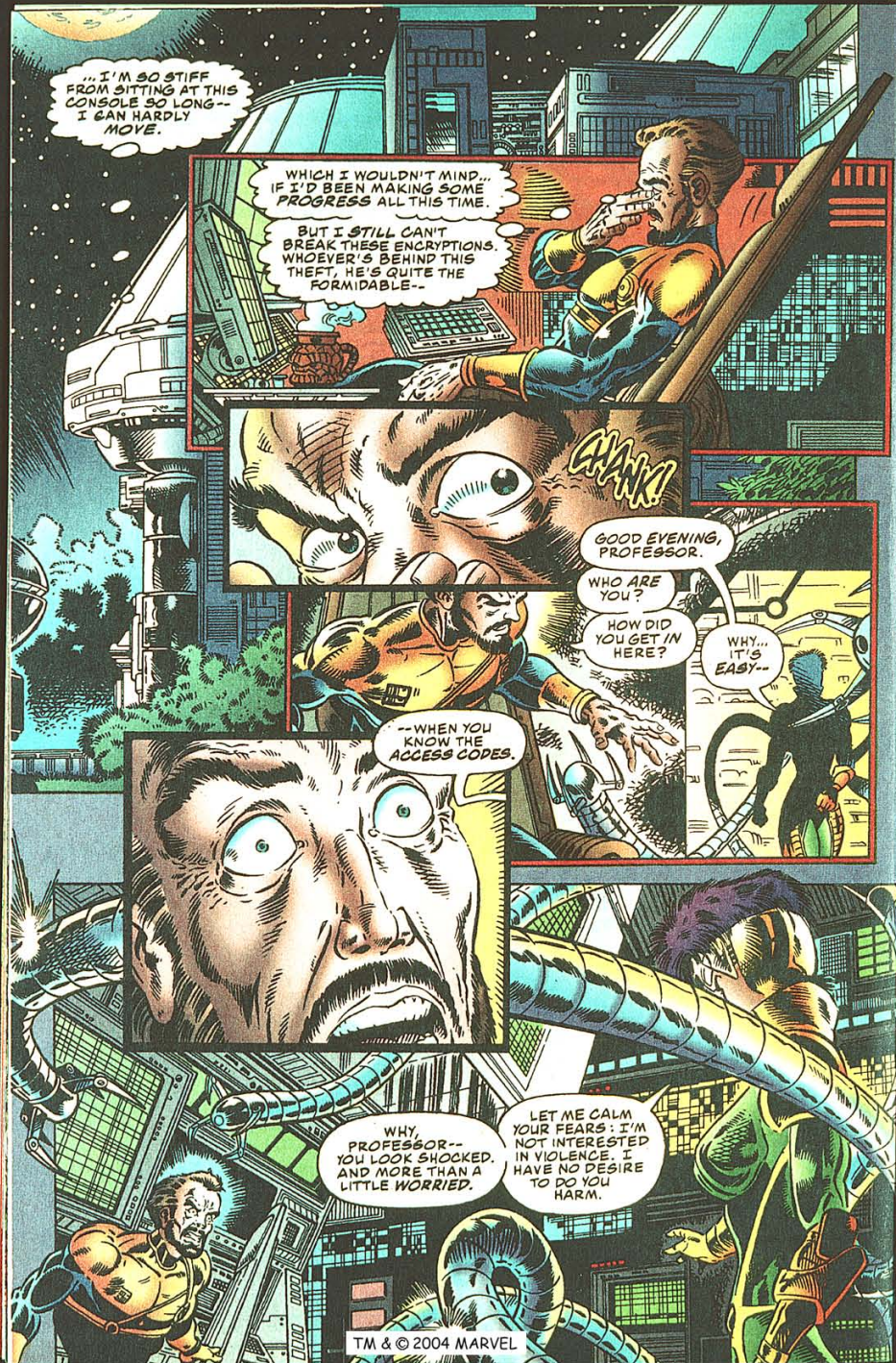
Joining Tom on the series is artist Scott McDaniel, who recently finished a much-acclaimed stint on DAREDEVIL. Scott describes his approach to the series: "This project afforded me the opportunity to take my art to the next level. The challenge for me is to keep the graphic nature of my style and add detail. With GREEN GOBLIN, there's just a plethora of over-the-top images to play with! It's a heckuva lot of fun!"

You can see for yourself what Tom, Scott and everyone else here at the WEBNET are so excited about by picking up a copy of GREEN GOBLIN #1 - flying off the shelves at a comic shop near you!

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SPIDER-MAN
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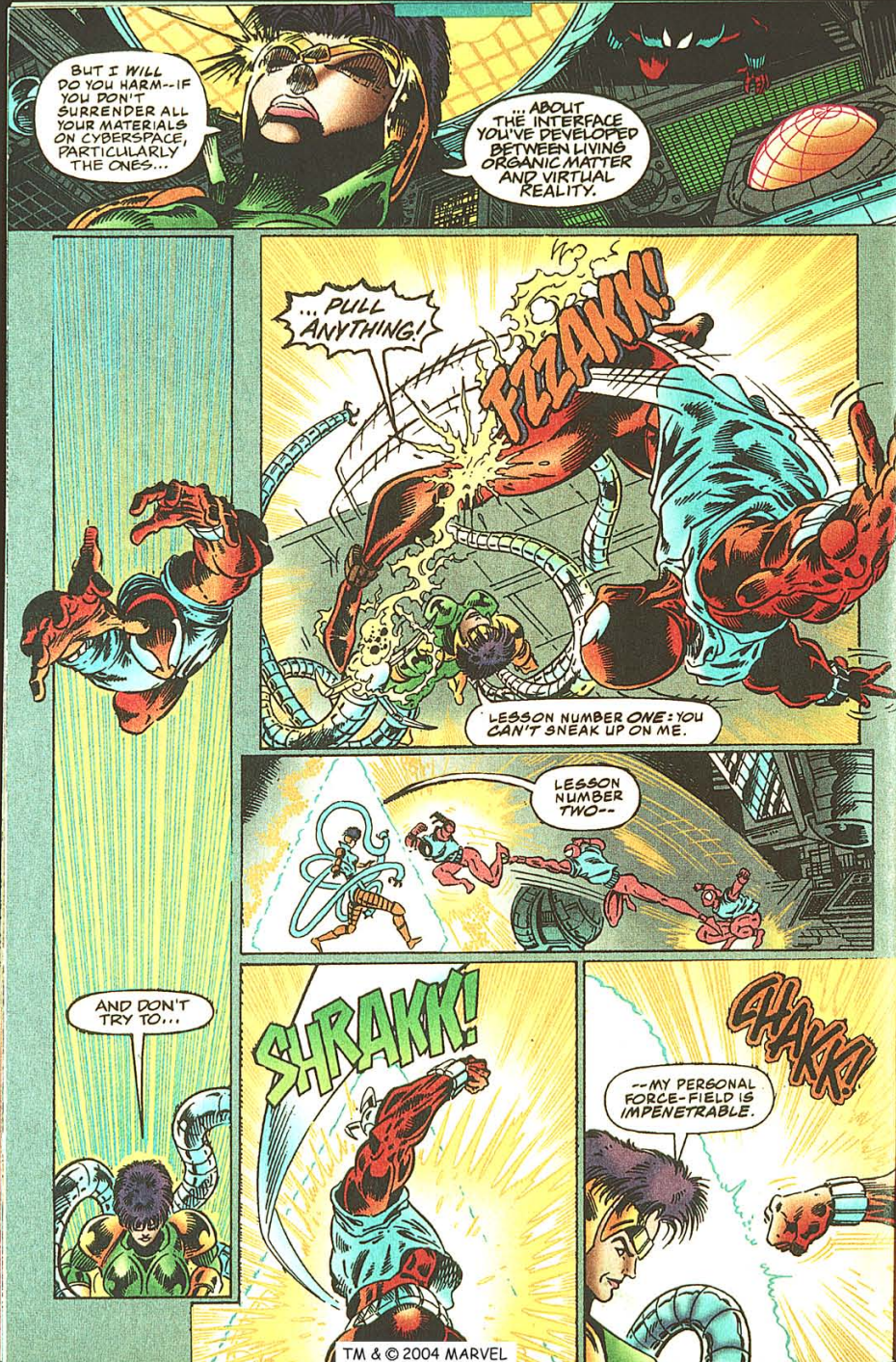
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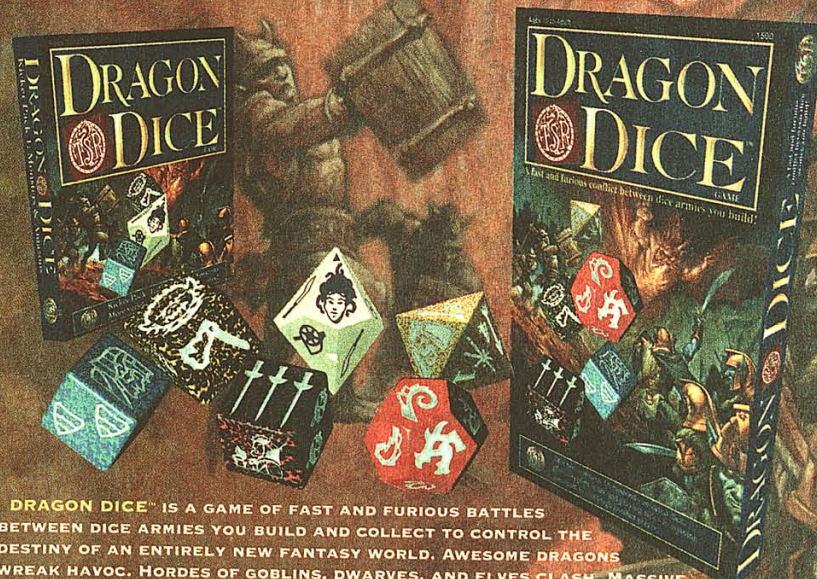
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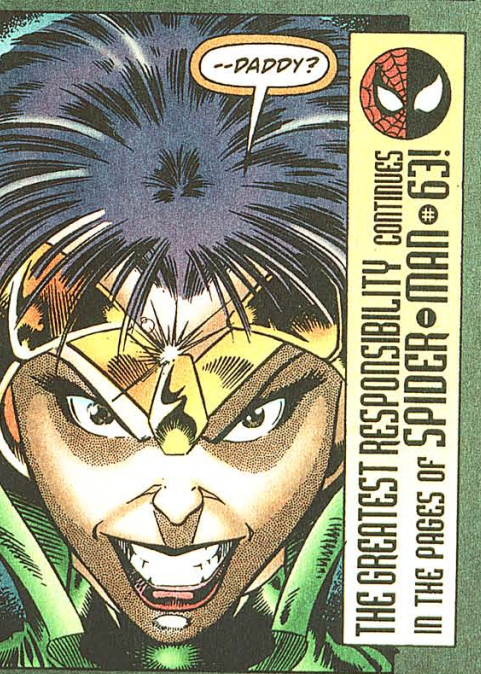
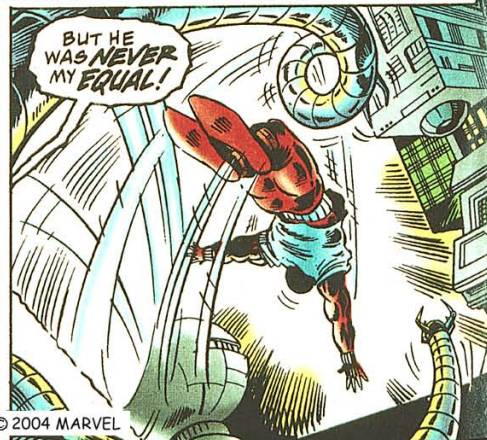
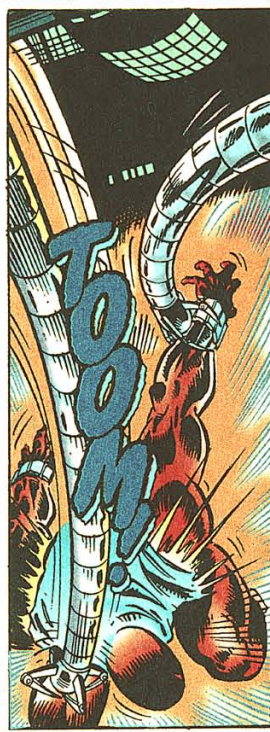
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THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY CONTINUES IN THE PAGES OF SPIDER-MAN #63!

THE SPIDERS' WEB

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All we can say is...Wow. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #400 brought in the most massive deluge of mail in recent memory, responses ranging from sheer outrage to heartfelt praise, more than a few claiming they'd been moved to tears, even more stating that the issue was the best comic book story they'd ever read. We were expecting a large response, but even we were blown away by the emotional impact this issue had on so many of you. So this month, we're running excerpts of as many letters as we can fit, and forgo our usual allegedly witty responses.

...So it's finally happened. You killed off Aunt May. AMAZING #400 was probably the best Spider story I've read since "Kraven's Last Hunt." A real death by real causes. You can't find that too much in comics anymore. Mr. DeMatteis, I can never forgive you... but I can't thank you enough...

Matthew Little
2541 Darlington Road
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

...I knew. Right from the start of issue #400 I could sense that Aunt May was going to die. Even as J.M.'s wonderful writing encouraged us to share Peter's relief at her recovery, I realized it was all part of the build-up to the most emotional moment in over three decades of Marvel Comics. Without the memories and the love, her death would not have been so monumental...

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffield
N. Humsbried Y025 7AZ
ENGLAND

...The fact that Aunt May knew Peter was Spider-Man was not surprising to me, being a parent of three wonderful children myself. As a parent (or guardian, as was May), we know more of our children than they think we do, and sometimes, for humility's sake, we keep our pride inside and smile a lot. Those six pages of Peter and May were truly a gift for all...

Frank C. Evangelista
92 Waldo Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

...It was good to see May say goodbye and tell Peter she knew he was Spider-Man and was proud of his efforts, which is something he has needed to hear for a long time. The death bed and wordless funeral scenes conveyed the sadness of the moments so well, it brought tears to my eyes...

Chris Morrison
100 Roselawn Drive
Independence, KY 41051

...Ahhhh!! How could you do this?! How could you kill Aunt May?! She was the best supporting cast member there ever was in any book! I can't imagine her no longer being in this book!

Drew Blankenship
Route 6
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

...Today, the first thing I picked up at the comic store, and the first one I read, was AMAZING #400. I have waited so long for this one. I didn't even page through it, for fear of diluting the story's impact. As a comic collector for nearly 10 years, and after amassing more than 1500 comics, I must write to tell you that ASM #400 is the best comic I've ever read, and possibly, the greatest single comics story of all time!

Chris Tait
Philadelphia, PA

...Aunt May is gone, and she died as she lived, not in some obscure battle which Peter would later blame himself for, but bestowing upon him the love and blessing she has always given him. And he will have that love always in his heart to remember her. However, I am very saddened that Ben had to face his grief alone. It was not fair. He loved Aunt May too, as much as Peter did, and the two of them should have shared their loss. But then, life isn't fair...

Zenonte D. Dion
1908 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 15121

...I especially loved the part when Aunt May revealed to Peter that she knew all along that he was Spider-Man and told him how proud she is of him. Whether he's the real one or the clone, he's got the Parker Legacy and it should continue. Even by ordinary people like us...

Augie Silvestre
(No address on letter)

...The scene between Peter and Aunt May on her deathbed was especially touching to me. My last living grandparent passed away two years ago, and it reminded me so much of our last time together. Gwen's death in ASM #121 was, up to this point, the most memorable Spider story I ever read. I did not think you could ever top that story.

You just did...

Jeffrey D. Cox
186 Garrison Road
Guntersville, AL 35976

...I've known Aunt May all my life. I did not hesitate to cry when I lost her. She was always there for Peter, as this comic has always been there for me.

Perhaps over the years, as a reader, I had come to take Aunt May a bit for granted; she was Peter's lovable old aunt, harmless, doting. Perhaps their relationship had even become a bit clichéd, with Peter always watching out for her, worrying over her, and she always fussing over him. Then J.M. DeMatteis came along and gave May the one thing she needed to become absolutely genuine: her dignity. And in the end, she gave Peter the greatest gift any parent can - acceptance...

Mark J. Kiewlak
316 West Main street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

...She knew! She knew! How cool is that?! I'll tell ya - really cool! How long has she known? I've always known that Aunt May wasn't so senile she couldn't figure out the whole Peter/Spider thing, but I'm glad we all found out before the end. While the "death" of that guy with the big "S" on his chest made me sit up and take notice, the death of May Parker made me sit down and cry...

Spencer Clarke
5821 Steeplechase Drive
Plano, TX 75093

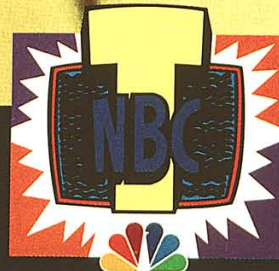
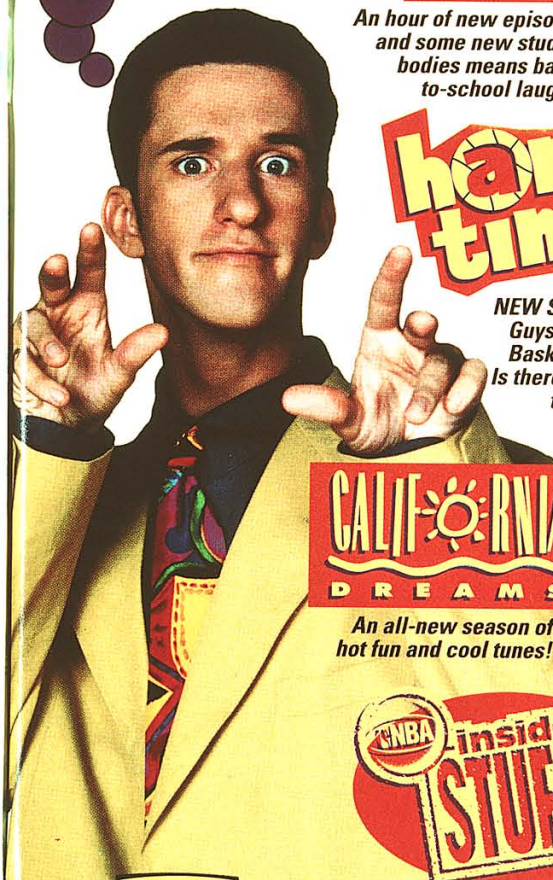
...ASM #400 is the most stirring and compassionate comic book I have ever read. May Parker passed away with all the strength and dignity of her character. As much as I really hate to see May disappear from the pages of Spider-Man, I can tell that this chapter was written for the fans. You took her love of life and put it into one grand retrospective. I've been a reader of this mag for 23 years and thank you for this sentimental, bittersweet tale. Rest in peace, May Parker.

Rick Wiley
429 6th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

NEXT WEEK: It's SPIDER-MAN #63, "The Greatest Responsibility" part 2! The new Doctor Octopus has Spider-Man and Scarlet Spider right where she wants them, as her mysterious scheme threatens to throw the world into virtual reality chaos! And Peter is faced with the most important decision of his life. No lie. It's brought to you by Howard Mackie, and the titanic guest art team of Gil Kane and Tom Palmer!

NEXT ISSUE: There is no next issue! Ha-ha!! Join new writer Tom DeFalco, returning artist Mark Bagley, and the rest of the crew in thirty days time for THE AMAZING SCARLET SPIDER #1! (We told you to be ready for anything, now, didn't we?)

LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES...
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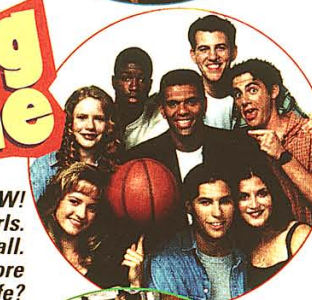
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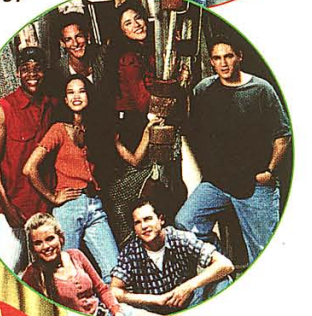
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